

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (currently amended) A ~~tumor marker~~ COX-2 detecting method for ~~diagnosing~~ detecting colon cancer comprising:

a) ~~providing extracted RNA by the method of claim 1~~ homogenizing collected feces in the presence of an RNase inhibitor to prepare a suspension thereof, without separating cell components from the feces;

b) extracting RNA from the suspension from step a) to provide extracted RNA;

[[b)]] c) carrying out reverse transcription on the extracted RNA from step [[a)]] b) to provide cDNA;

[[c)]] d) amplifying the cDNA from step [[b)]] c); and

[[d)]] e) detecting the amplified ~~cDNA~~ COX-2 from step [[c)],] d) ~~wherein the tumor marker is thereby detected.~~

Claims 6 to 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step [[d)]] e) amplifying the cDNA from step [[c)]] d) is carried out by a nested PCR.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the amplification is carried out by a PCR and a first round of the PCR is executed for 20 cycles.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the ~~collected biological sample~~ feces is frozen.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the RNase inhibition is selected from the group consisting of (i) guanidine thiocyanate, (ii) a homogenous liquid containing phenol and guanidine thiocyanate and (iii) a 14M solution of guanidine salts, urea and a RNA binding resin.

Claim 19. (canceled)

Claim 20. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[6]]~~ 5, wherein the ~~biological sample~~ feces is frozen; ~~the biological sample comprises feces~~ ~~[[;]]~~ and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 21. (canceled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[19]]~~ 5, wherein the feces is human feces.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the feces is human feces.